

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-11 ISO-00 CU-04 STR-04 TRSE-00

COME-00 L-03 OES-05 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

ERDA-07 DODE-00 /072 W

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R 201839Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS ROME 2808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, EEC, IT

SUBJ: EC REGULATION 1978/75: CUSTOMS DUTIES ON EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS

REF: STATE 35889

1. GOI HAS NOT YET IMPLEMENTED EC REGULATION 1798/75. ITALY IS APPARENTLY UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, AND AN INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER ON FEBRUARY 21. MINISTRY OF FINANCE WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE PRESENT SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION OF DUTY FOR IMPORTS OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS/APPARATUS HAVE BEEN APPROVED, RATHER THAN SHIFT TO EC-WIDE BASIS. WITHIN MINISTRY FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS (MFA), DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION FAVORS CONTINUATION OF PRESENT SYSTEM,

BELIEVING UNESCO COMMITMENT SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY. MFA ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE, HOWEVER, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EC AFFAIRS, HAS NOT YET DECIDED ITS POSITION.

2. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH APPROPRIATE MFA AND MINISTRY FINANCE REPS. EMBOFF LEFT "NONPAPER" (DRAWN FROM REFTEL) EXPLAONING USG POSITION WITH MFA IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT US VIEWPOINT RECEIVES PROPER CONSIDERATION AT FEBRUARY 21 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. COMMENT. SHIFTING FROM ITALY-WIDE TO EC-WIDE BASIS FOR DETERMINING AVAILABILITY OF EQUIVALENT SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS/ APPARATUS WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON US TRADE, GIVEN THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF REQUESTS FOR DUTY FREE TREATMENT APPROVED UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM. POSITION OF MFA ECONOMIC DRECTORATE LIKELY TO BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN GOI DECISION WHETHER TO APPLY EC REGULATION 1798/75. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 21 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING ASAP.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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